

**From:** Kreischer, Anna  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2011 11:54 AM  
**Subject:** Russia Wins the Space Race

Who rules the space race? It's been a back and forth over the years, with both nations having its successes:

- The Soviets took an early lead in 1957 with the launch of Sputnik, and again in 1961 with Yuri Gagarin's trip around Earth's orbit.
- The U.S. quickly fought back, sending Alan Shepard into space to become the first person to exercise manual control of the spacecraft.
- The USSR took the lead again in 1965 when two cosmonauts were able to exit the spacecraft and go on a "spacewalk."

In July 1969, the U.S. won the race to the moon when Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Buzz Aldrin successfully landed and made "one giant leap for mankind." Since then, many have considered the U.S. the winner of the space race. But this may have changed...

With budget cuts looming, NASA has discontinued funding its space exploration program. Instead, Russia will transport, train and incur all other costs associated with putting American astronauts into space. As Russia continues to develop its space exploration technology, it can only lead to one conclusion: That after decades of rivalry, Russia has won the space race.

Happy to discuss this concept further with you. Additionally, more information on Russia's space exploration program can be found on a factsheet from ModernRussia.com here:

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/52765058/ModernRussia-com-Fact-Sheet-Russian-Space-Program>  
ModernRussia.com is an online forum discussing Russia's modernization efforts run by Ketchum on behalf of the Russian government.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,  
Anna

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might not cope with those challenges of life that every person faces, no matter where he is working. And if you try to overcome your tiredness in an active way, then you can succeed.

What to do? You can do sports, gymnastics, like our Chinese friends, relax somehow, read books, go to the theatre, watch movies, meet with your friends, and spend time with your family. Then tiredness steps back. This helps to cope with the problems.

SHUI JUNYI: Mr President, as a journalist, I can't help asking you the question which is of interest practically to the whole world: what kind of cooperation do you and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin have?

Also, the next presidential elections in Russia are due in less than a year. Will you run for a second term?

DMITRY MEDVEDEV: I cannot say that this is the most unusual question that I have heard. But that is ok. You should ask questions like that, and I should respond to them.

Regarding my relations with Mr Putin. I have already spoken about that on several occasions and would like to say it again. We have friendly and very warm relations that have been shaping over the last two decades. It is a long time, in my life, too - you said I am not that old yet. I have known Mr Putin for almost half of my life, it is quite a lot, and we first met back in St Petersburg many-many years ago. We communicate, and communicate, naturally, in a friendly manner, but today we hold different positions, perform different roles: I am President of the country, I guarantee compliance with our Constitution; I am Head of State. The President forms the Government and manages many of processes in the country. The Government does its own work: it is responsible for the economy, social sphere, it works on a daily basis, which is also hard. This has its own influence on my relations with my colleague, and it could not be otherwise. It was a mirror situation when I worked in the Government and Mr Putin was the President. It is only natural.

As for the future, well, nobody can tell the future, but I can tell you that as the current Head of State, as President, I am thinking about it, it is my duty. I do not rule out the possibility of my running for a second term at the presidential elections. The decision will be taken very shortly since, as you have correctly pointed out, the elections are less than a year away. This decision, however, should be, first, mature and, second, it should take into account the existing social situation, current political environment and, most importantly, the attitude of people. Before making any such decisions, one has to weigh their chances, avoid acting mechanically, and, instead, act with a clear understanding of the situation. I expect such understanding to form within a relatively short time, I will speak about it. OK?